

## Cabinet Report to the Presbytery

March 1, 2014

### Action Items

1. ***Recommend renaming the Council as the "Cabinet".***  
 "Council" is the term used in the new Form of Government for session, presbytery, synod, or General Assembly. It was felt that the name of our leadership team should be changed to avoid confusion.
2. ***Recommend that the presbytery be reimbursed for the expenses it has incurred from the upkeep of the Guilford Center church building from the proceeds of the sale of the building.***
3. ***Recommend that all remaining proceeds from the sale of the Guilford Center Church building be placed in a fund to cover future property matters or other legal fees related to property.***
4. ***Recommend reversing an earlier decision to send an overture to the General Assembly regarding consolidating Waverly, Athens, and Sayre churches into one congregation called "Valley United Presbyterian" and instead creating a Larger Parish of those 3 churches (with the name still being "Valley United Presbyterian")***

We have learned that such an overture is not in keeping with the current Book of Order and would likely not receive approval due to issues with synods and which body or bodies should be making the overture. A Larger Parish, however, can cross synod and presbytery borders and does not require GA approval. The three congregations still exist ecclesiastically, but they can state that the decisions of the Parish Session are actions of the individual church sessions as well.

It is hoped that other actions in regards to synod mergers that are coming before GA in June may make consolidation of the congregations easier to do at a later date.

### For Information

1. Orientation was held in January for new and returning members. At this time we renewed our Council Covenant and approved editorial changes to the "Committee Structure Document" which functions as the presbytery's official Organizational Chart. (Attached) [#7A]
2. Approved the resolution to authorize the Stated Clerk to sign the Conklin Mortgage refinancing guarantee and attach the resolution to our minutes.
3. Approved renewal of the Treasurer position contract for 6 months while reviewing the position.
4. Approved a cluster grant of \$2000 from Church Development funds for the upcoming Ethiopian Trip.
5. Pending approval from JIMMT, approved \$500 from JIMM Peacemaking funds to go to Benjamin Althaus from First Delhi to attend the Mosaic of Peace Conference with the understanding that he shares the experience with churches in the Presbytery upon his return.

6. In a special meeting on February 20, Cabinet approved a Creative Ministry grant to First Presbyterian Delhi to support Ben Althaus as delegate to the Mosaic of Peace Conference, with a modification of the amount: subtracting the prior \$500 from JIMM Peacemaking funds as well as the upcoming 50% portion of the Presbytery Meeting Offering so that the total of all three sources amounts to \$1500.
7. On behalf of the presbytery, approved the property easement for First Presbyterian Church of Stamford with a neighbor's driveway.
8. The Finance Sub-Committee reported a few corrections to the 2014 Budget. First, the salary amounts for the Office Administrator and Stated Clerk were calculated incorrectly which also throws off the social security amounts. The correct figures should be

OA Salary	\$ 22,939
OA Social Security	2,137
SC Salary	13,432
SC SS Offset	1,028

The budget is also missing the rental fee to Binghamton United for the room we are using for storage. That adds another \$1,200 to the administrative side of the Budget. Also, we have been informed that our insurance rates on the PMSC may go up because the building is vacant.

9. Approved returning \$10,000 in excess flood relief funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This money was given to the presbytery to aid in recovery after hurricane Irene.